

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DLOS-03 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /108 W

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R 242035Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1627

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T GENEVA 2055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON VESSEL SOURCE POLLUTION

1. FYI. THERE IS A GENERAL TREND DEVELOPING IN THE LOS CONFERENCE AGAINST ANY STANDARD SETTING COMPETENCE BY THE COASTAL STATE WITHIN THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WITH RESPECT TO VESSEL-SOURCE POLLUTION. THIS CONFORMS WITH THE US POSITION WHICH SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SET THROUGH IMCO, FLAG STATE STANDARDS FOR A STATE'S OWN FLAG VESSELS, AND PORT STATE STANDARDS FOR SHIPS CALLING AT THE PORTS OF A STATE. AUSTRALIA, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO PUSH COASTAL STATE STANDARD SETTING AUTHORITY WITHIN THE ECONOMIC ZONE EVEN THOUGH HEDGED IN VARIOUS WAYS. THIS OPPOSITION IS VOCAL AND COULD POTENTIALLY PREVENT AGREEMENT ON THE PACKAGE IN THE "EVENSEN NEGOTIATING GROUP" OR IN COMMITTEE III OF THE CONFERENCE.

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2. IN VIEW ABOVE, IF DEPT. CONCURS, LOS DEL REQUESTS

THAT EMBASSY RAISE WITH GOA AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH
LEVEL THAT AVOIDANCE OF COASTAL STATE STANDARD
SETTING IN ECONOMIC ZONE IS VITAL INTEREST FOR US
AND THAT AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR THIS CONCEPT COULD
PREVENT PACKAGE DEAL IN GENEVA. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO
POINT OUT THAT RIGHT OF PORT STATE TO SET STANDARDS FOR
VESSELS ENTERING PORTS SHOULD LARGELY MEET AUSTRALIAN
NEEDS. THIS RIGHT ALREADY EXISTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL
LAW AND IS NOT BEING DEALT WITH IN LOS CONFERENCE.
EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT PROTECTING NAVIGATIONAL
FREEDOM IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE AND STRAITS IS FOR US AS
VITAL A CONCERN AS IS CONTINENTAL MARGIN ISSUE FOR GOA.

3. PLEASE REPORT RESPONSE TO US DEL GENEVA.

4. FOR ESKIN D/LOS. PLEASE SEEK DEPT. CONCURRENCE
ASAP. DALE

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NNN

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